THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Modernization of figher aircraft and transport aircraft is an ongoing process undertaken from time to time to meet the operational requirements of the Air Force.

(c) and (d) Upgradation of MiG-21 fighter aircraft has been carried out. Upgradation of Jaguar and MiG-27 aircraft is underway at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. The Air Force has identified aircraft including MiG-29, Mirage 2000 for upgradation during the 10th and 11th plan periods.

Oil spill in Karwar and Goa coast

2774.SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a vessel named M.V. Ocean Seraya, meet with an accident on account of rough weather off the Karwar coast in South India;

(b) whether a large quantity of oil spilled into ocean waters as a result thereof;

(c) whether oil spill polluted the coast of Karwar and Goa, resulting in water pollution; and

(d) if so, the details of step taken by various authorities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) A Panamanian bulk carrier M.V. Ocean Seraya ran aground Oyster rock off Karwar harbour, due to rough weather, on 30th May 2006. The ship was carrying 715 metric tones of oils of different grades out of which 258.58 metric tones of oil was recovered from the vessel with the help of salvers assisted by the Coast Guard. The oil that spilled into the sea on 31st May, 2006 was dispersed off by the Coast Guard. A thorough examination and water sample testing showed that there was no pollution on the Karnataka and Goa Coast due to the oil spill. The Coast Guard had launched pollution response operation and had promptly acted in coordination with the State Governments and other organizations to prevent, contain and control the oil spillage and the resultant ecological disaster.